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COUNTRY Uruguay

DATE DISTR. 30 September 1948

SUBJECT Tension between UGT and Minister of Industry and Labor

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1. Another instance has been reported to indicate a continuing tension between the Union General de Trabajadores (UGT) and Minister of Industry and Labor Fernando Farina. In a conversation with Enrique Rodriguez, Secretary General of the UGT, in late August 1948, Farina appeared to be very disgusted concerning the activities of the Communists in the labor unions, and averred that the Communists were creating conflicts which were disturbing the peace of the country. He mentioned the barbers' strike, which has continued for some time with no efforts being made to reach an agreement, and claimed that the Communists had intervened in that strike in order to make it more complicated.
2. Farina cautioned Rodriguez to remember he is a National Deputy before leading the laborers into such an agitated state. He declared that if the Communists persisted in keeping the workers in such a state, the government was prepared to take radical measures in order to prevent the success of their endeavors.

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